

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, OTRA, EAID, ID, MY, BM, TH

SUBJECT: EA/TIMBS WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

INDONESIA

THE JAKARTA CLIMATE - CONFIDENTIAL

AT LATEST REPORT, JAKARTA REMAINS QUIET BUT TENSE IN THE
WAKE OF THE CRACKDOWN ON STUDENT DISSIDENTS AND THE PRESS.
TOTAL ARRESTS MAY HAVE REACHED SEVERAL HUNDRED (ABOUT ONE-
THIRD IN JAKARTA), BUT THE GREAT BULK HAVE PROBABLY
ALREADY BEEN RELEASED. THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON HOW
SOON THE SUSPENDED PAPERS MAY BE PERMITTED TO REOPEN. THE
MILITARY APPARENTLY REMAINS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ORDER
EVEN AT SOME COST TO INDONESIA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.
SHORT-TERM SUCCESS LEADING TO A LONGER-TERM REACTION IS A
DISTINCT POSSIBILITY.

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THE WASHINGTON CLIMATE - SECRET

BRIEFED JUST BEFORE THE CRACKDOWN, WE UNDERSTAND THE
SECRETARY AGREED WITH OUR JUDGMENTS THAT (A) WE CANNOT
DEFUSE THE GROWING TENSION, (B) TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE,
AMB. MASTERS IS DEFTLY INDICATING TO INDONESIAN OFFICIALS

THE WISDOM OF PATIENCE AND PRUDENCE, AND (C) IT IS CRUCIAL FOR US TO AVOID ANY STEPS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED WITHIN INDONESIA AS SUPPORTING SUHARTO'S OPPONENTS OR FAILING TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE ALSO CALLED THE ATTENTION OF PRINCIPALS AND THE NSC STAFF TO THE EMBASSY'S BELIEF IN THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF ANY HIGH-PROFILE US REACTION. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STIRRINGS WITHIN THE USG QUESTIONING WHETHER THE FAVORABLE INDONESIAN TREND ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN HALTED OR REVERSED AND WHETHER, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR ANTICIPATED SUPPORT FOR THE IBRD POWER VII LOAN SHOULD BE CHANGED. AS YOU KNOW, THE F-5 ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IS NOW LAYING IN CONGRESS AND WE ARE WORKING ON APPROVAL OF A PL-480 TITLE I SUPPLEMENT (WHEAT AND RICE). THE CLIMATE HERE WILL DEPEND PRIMARILY ON WHETHER THE DETENTIONS/PRESS CLOSURES ARE TEMPORARY AND WHETHER VIOLENCE IS AVOIDED.

F-5S - CONFIDENTIAL

THE 20-DAY INFORMAL NOTIFICATION ON THE F-5 SALE WAS DELIVERED TO CONGRESS BY DOD/DSAA ON JAN 23 THEREBY MEETING OUR COMMITMENT OF LAST NOVEMBER. DESPITE THE CLASSIFIED NATURE OF THE NOTIFICATION, REUTERS RAN A STORY THAT EVENING WHICH PROBABLY CAME FROM THE HILL. A BRIEF MENTION OF THE INDONESIAN F-5 CASE ALSO APPEARED IN A LONGER NEW YORK TIMES STORY JAN 24 ABOUT PROPOSED AIRCRAFT SALES TO
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THE MIDDLE EAST. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, RECEIVED ANY FOLLOW-UP INQUIRIES TO DATE FROM THE PRESS, CONGRESS OR THE INDONESIANS DESPITE THE INAUSPICIOUS TIMING OF THE LEAK.

AMBASSADOR ASHARI'S ARRIVAL - LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

AMB. ASHARI ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON. WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH PROTOCOL TO ENSURE THE SMOOTHEST POSSIBLE RECEPTION AND HANDLING OF CREDENTIALS. WE DO NOT WISH ANY PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS TO BE PERCEIVED AS SLIGHT -- PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME OF POLITICAL UNREST.

BURMA

AMBASSADOR PROPOSES MODEST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - CONFIDENTIAL

AMBASSADOR BEAN HAS RECOMMENDED A SMALL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BURMA CONSISTING OF A 2-3 MILLION DOL PL-480 PROGRAM AND/OR GRANT ASSISTANCE DIRECTED TOWARDS AGRICULTURE. HE WOULD PREFER THAT PL-480 FUNDS GENERATED BY AN EDIBLE OILS PROGRAM, FOR EXAMPLE, BE OFFERED FOR NARCOTICS TREAT-

MENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS OR FOR FINANCING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMS.

THESE PROPOSALS ARE BEING STUDIED BY EA, USDA AND AID IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEB 1 MEETING OF THE IBRD BURMA AID GROUP IN PARIS (JACK SULLIVAN WILL ATTEND.). THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING BELIEF IN EA AND THE EMBASSY THAT A MODEST AID GESTURE WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OUR INTERESTS IN BURMA AND BE CONSONANT WITH OUR PROFESSED PROFILE IN SEASIA.

THAILAND

THAI FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT PHNOM PENH - LOU

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EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS THAT UNANIMOUS PRAISE HAS FOLLOWED THE ANNOUNCEMENT JAN 23 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT WILL VISIT PHNOM PENH SOON (IN LATE JAN) TO "PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP" BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA. THE MOST PRESSING ISSUE IS, OF COURSE, THE BORDER FIGHTING. THE THAI, HOWEVER, REMAIN WARY OF CAMBODIAN INTENTIONS AND ARE MAKING NO MAJOR PREDICTIONS THAT THE VISIT WILL RESULT IN IMPROVEMENTS ON THE BORDER. NEVERTHELESS, BANGKOK CLEARLY HOPES THAT CAMBODIA'S BORDER WAR WITH VIETNAM WILL LEAD PHNOM PENH TO AGREE TO REDUCE TENSION ON ITS WESTERN AND NORTHERN BORDER WITH THAILAND.

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN FONMIN TO VISIT PRC - CONFIDENTIAL

WE UNDERSTAND (IN CONFIDENCE) THAT FONMIN RITHAUDDEEN WILL VISIT THE PRC SOMETIME IN THE SPRING AS PART OF MALAYSIA'S CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. THE PRC HAS REPORTEDLY MADE KNOWN ITS CONCERN WITH THE SLOW DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA. EMBASSY KL NOTES THAT IN ADDITION TO MEETING THE PRC COMPLAINT OF NEGLECT, THE VISIT WILL ALSO PRESUMABLY BENEFIT THE GOVERNMENT IN THE UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS ESPECIALLY IN CHINESE MALAY AREAS.

INDONESIA

FOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT (PL-480, TITLE III) - LOU

FOLLOWING INTERAGENCY REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT TO AID DIRECTOR NIBLOCK TO PROCEED WITH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOI ON POSSIBLE PROJECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION UNDER
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THE NEW TITLE III OF PL-480 APPROVED BY CONGRESS LAST YEAR. THIS PROGRAM WOULD ALLOW US TO MAKE FIRMER LONG-TERM INDICATIONS TO THE GOI OF FOOD AID LEVELS ON A GRANT RATHER THAN LOAN BASIS ON PROJECTS/PROGRAMS TIED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION AND MEETING

THE NEEDS OF THE RURAL POOR. THE MISSION MAY INDICATE TO THE GOI THAT A 50-60 MILLION DOL TITLE III PROGRAM PER YEAR MIGHT NOT BE OUT OF LINE. A SMALLER PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO INDONESIA'S ECONOMIC POLICYMAKERS.

THIS PROGRAM IS NEW AND THE LEGISLATION AND INSTRUCTIONS COMPLEX SO THERE MAY WELL BE CONSIDERABLE JOCKEYING BEFORE THE FIRST PROGRAMS GET THROUGH THE APPROVAL PROCESS. ONE MAJOR CRITERIA IS THAT TITLE III PROGRAMS MUST BE CLEARLY ADDITIONAL TO DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY OR PLANNED. (GUIDANCE IS CONTAINED IN LETTERS TO MR. NIBLOCK OF JAN 13 AND 23.) VANCE

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